

## For More Information...

If you would like a cost estimate for purchasing service, you must send a written request to the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA). Include your full name, address, social security number, phone number and as much information as possible concerning the type of service you wish to purchase.

For more information regarding the purchase of various types of service available in the retirement systems, contact the MPERA in writing at the address listed on the back of this brochure.



### State of Montana MPERA

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P.O. Box 200131  
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## Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration (MPERA) Purchasing Service



**Montana Public Employees' Retirement  
Board**

**October 2005**

## Who Is Eligible To Purchase Service?

Only members of **PERS DBRP\*, JRS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS, FURS, and MPORS** are eligible to purchase (buy) service. \*You are not eligible to purchase service once you have elected the PERS Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (DCRP).

## How Do I Pay For The Service I Wish To Purchase?

You may rollover funds from an eligible retirement plan account to purchase service. You may also purchase service through a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer of funds from your IRA, 403(b) or 457(b) deferred compensation plan. Service may be purchased on an installment contract. Installment contracts cannot be terminated except by death or termination of employment. Payment schedules cannot be less than three months or more than 60 months (five years).

## How Much Will It Cost To Purchase My Service?

For information about initiating a service purchase contract, contact the MPERA in writing. You should receive a written cost statement within 3-5 weeks from receipt of your request.

## What Types Of Service Can Be Purchased?

### ♦ Refunded Service

You may purchase service from which you have terminated and taken a refund. Contact the MPERA.

### ♦ Retroactive Service

PERS members who have previously declined optional membership may be eligible to purchase that service. You may also purchase service earned prior to the employer's PERS contract coverage. You must file a written application with the MPERA for Board approval.

### ♦ Montana Public Service

You may be eligible to purchase previous service in the other retirement systems. You must have received, or be eligible to receive, a refund of accumulated contributions. Contact the MPERA for specific details.

### ♦ Other Public Service

You may be eligible to purchase service performed with another state or the Federal Government for which you contributed to a retirement system and took a refund.



### ♦ Absence Due to Illness or Injury

If you are absent from service because of a work related injury or illness, you may be eligible to purchase that absence upon returning to service. Contact the MPERA for specific qualifications.

### ♦ Additional "1 for 5" Service\*\*

If you have at least five years of membership service you may, at any time before retirement, file a written request with the Board to purchase 1 additional year of service credit for each 5 years of membership service.

### ♦ Military Service\*\*

Retirement system members with at least five years of membership service may purchase military service.

### ♦ Reserve Military Service\*\*

Eligible members of the PERS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS, FURS, and MPORS, with at least **five years of membership service**, may purchase up to five years of the member's reserve military service.

### ♦ Volunteer Service\*\*

PERS members with at least five years of membership service may now purchase up to five years of the member's service as a volunteer in various United States service programs.

\*\*The years of service which may be purchased is limited to five years in combination with other starred service purchases.■